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**Twenty Namibians Selected for U.S. President Barack Obama's  
Flagship Young Leadership Program**

Three Namibian young leaders received a personal surprise Tuesday, March 22 when U.S. Ambassador Thomas Daughton approached them at various locations around Windhoek to inform them that they have been selected from among 425 Namibian applicants to participate in the 2016 Mandela Washington Fellowship in the United States. Others received a personal phone call from Ambassador Daughton live from the studio of Radio Energy.



Bernardus Harageib, 27, from Usakos, learned while at Street Cuisine Café. He was speechless. Kileni Fernando, 26, from Tsumke, heard the news while at the American Cultural Center Library. She explained her motivation for applying, “I just want to get experience and to meet people. I just would like to know about

other organizations and also learn about other peoples’ cultures.” Anel van der Vyer, 25, from Windhoek, was surprised at her workplace surrounded by colleagues. “No, you’re joking. That is so exciting. Wow,” said an incredulous Anel.

Other Fellows learned that they had been selected via personal phone calls by the U.S. Ambassador live from the studios of Radio Energy.

Reactions ranged from speechlessness to screams of joy and gratitude for the opportunity.

Ambassador Daughton said to the Fellows about the program, “President Obama said recently that the Mandela Washington Fellowship is one of his proudest accomplishments.”



Namibia’s Twenty 2016 Mandela Washington Fellows and leadership tracks in which they will study:

1. Julia Amukoshi, 27, from Onekondjelo, works at University of Namibia, Public Management track
2. Ricardo Amunjera, 32, from Luderitz, works at Langer Heinrich Uranium Mine, Track: Civic Leadership track
3. Namasiku Baings, 26, from Katima Mulilo, works at Namdeb, Business & Entrepreneurship track
4. Joan Biwa, 31, from Windhoek, works at Old Mutual, Business & Entrepreneurship track

5. Kileni Fernando, 26, from Tsumke, works at Women's Leadership Center, Civic Leadership track
6. Immanuel Hango, 31, from Oniihwa, works at Namibian Ports Authority, Business & Entrepreneurship track
7. Ndahafa Hapulile, 29, from Oshakati, works at SWAPO, Public Management track
8. Bernadus Harageib, 27, from Usakos, Self-employed, Civic Leadership track
9. Emilie Iyambo, 27, from Oshakati, works at Namdeb, Civic Leadership track
10. Mandela Kapere, 33, from Arandis, works at the National Youth Council, Public Management track
11. Alphons Koruhama, 28, from Otjikondavirongo, Self-employed, Business & Entrepreneurship track
12. Aily Namupala, 23, from Swakopmund, works at Namibian Uranium Association, Public Management track
13. Rosalia Neshuku, 26, from Ondangwa, works at Luderitz Town Council, Business & Entrepreneurship track
14. Tulongeni Pohamba, 31, Self-employed, from Windhoek, Business & Entrepreneurship track
15. Reginald Roman, 30, from Khorixas, works at Kunene Regional Council, Public Management track
16. Taleni Shimhopileni, 25, from Ongwediva, Self-employed, Business & Entrepreneurship track
17. Tulimelia Shityuwete, 28, from Windhoek, Self-employed, Business & Entrepreneurship track
18. Roline Tjipueja, 30, from Okahandja, works at Bank of Namibia, Public Management track

19. Anel van der Vyer, 25, from Windhoek, works at the Office of the Attorney General, Public Management track

20. Jo-Ann Van Wyk, 31, from Witvlei, Self-employed, Public Management track

**Background:**

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of the President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and embodies President Obama's commitment to invest in the future of Africa. The first class of 500 Mandela Washington Fellows traveled to the United States in June 2014 for six weeks of intensive executive leadership training, networking, and skills building, followed by a Presidential Summit in Washington, DC. The 2016 Mandela Washington Fellows will be comprised of 1,000 African young leaders, twenty from Namibia. Through this initiative, the Namibian leaders will hone their leadership skills and make the connections they need to accelerate their career trajectories and contribute robustly to strengthening democratic institutions, spurring economic growth, and enhancing peace and security in Africa. They will study in one of three tracks: Civic Leadership, Business & Entrepreneurship, or Public Management.

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